

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: JUSTICE MINISTER ADDRESSES PRP CASE AND TORTURE
QUESTION

REF: SEOUL 1086

1. MINISTER OF JUSTICE, HWANG SAN-TOK, WARNED ANTI-GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS THAT IF THEY CONTINUE TO CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT ON PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRP) CASE, ROKG WOULD PROSECUTE THEM UNDER ARTICLE 4 OF ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW. (ARTICLE 4 STIPULATES THAT ANY PERSON WHO PRAISES, ENCOURAGES OR COOPERATES WITH AN ANTI-STATE ORGANIZATION OR ITS MEMBERS IS "AIDING" SUCH ORGANIZATION. SENTENCE PRESCRIBED IS SEVEN YEARS.)

2. ON FEBRUARY 24, HWANG ANNOUNCED THAT PRP FITTED DESCRIPTION OF ANTI-STATE ORGANIZATION. THOSE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION WOULD INCLUDE THOSE CRITICS WHO CLAIM PRP CASE IS "FABRICATED DRAMA" AS WELL AS THOSE WHO APPEAL FOR RELEASE OF PRP MEMBERS FROM PRISON. HE FURTHER WARNED THAT REPORTING IN NEWSPAPER THAT PRP CASE HAD BEEN "FABRICATED" WOULD SUBJECT OFFENDER TO PUNISHMENT.

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3. JUSTICE MINISTER ALSO ADDRESSED SUBJECT OF TORTURE OF EMERGENCY MEASURES PRISONERS. SAYING THAT HE HAD INVESTIGATED TORTURE ALLEGATIONS, HWANG DECLARED HE WAS ABLE TO REPORT THAT NO TORTURE HAD TAKEN PLACE. HE DID NOTE THAT ONE PRISONER HAD DEVELOPED A HERNIA PRIOR TO HIS QUESTIONING (AND NOT AFTER AS WAS ALLEGED) AND THAT ANOTHER WAS FORCED TO WRITE "THREE CHEERS FOR KIM IL-SONG" SEVERAL TIMES SO INTERROGATORS WOULD HAVE SAMPLE OF HIS HANDWRITING.

COMMENT: ROKG CLEARLY ANNOYED BY SHARP ANTI-GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ISSUED BY SOME FORMER EMERGENCY MEASURES PRISONERS AND OTHER OPPOSITION FIGURES. HOWEVER, IT STILL EVIDENTLY HOPES THAT BASIC FACT OF RELEASE WILL IN LONG RUN SERVE TO MODERATE CONFRONTATION. WE WOULD GUESS THAT, FOR TIME BEING AT LEAST, THERE WILL BE NO REARRESTS OF FORMER PRISONERS OR INDICTMENTS OF OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS FOR VIOLATION OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT LAW.

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